

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5986

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4119

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS OREP, TW (MATSUNAGA, SPARK)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ROC OF CODEL MATASUNAGA

REF: (A) TAIPEI 3975

1. CONGRESSMAN SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, ACCOMPANIED BY STAFFDEL DR. PING CHEN, MADE THREE-DAY VISIT TO TAIPEI FROM JUNE 30 TO JULY 3, 1975. VISIT PROVIDED OCCASION TO STUDY PROBLEMS AND ROC PROGRAM FOR CARE OF AGING AND RETIRED CITIZENS" AND WAS RESPONSE, ALBEIT TARDY, TO SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY INVITATIO TO ATTEND ITS ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT (HELD TWO WEEKS EARLIER).

2. ABOVE AMENITIES ACCOMPLISHED, MAIN THRUST OF VISIT WAS TO SEEK "EQUAL TIME" AND POLITICAL ATTENTION FOLLOWING SENATOR FONG'S RECENT VISITS TO ROC. MATSUNAGA, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, IS ATTEMPTING STEER MIDDLE-OF-ROAD ROC/PRC COURSE PREPARATORY TO HAWAII'S NEXT SENATE RACE IN WHICH, REPORTEDLY, HE INTENDS CONTEST FONG'S SEAT. ACCORDING STAFFDEL, MATSUNAGA CANNOT DISREGARD HAWAII'S ETHNIC CHINESE, BASICALLY PRO-ROC CONSTITUENCY, AND, MOREOVER, AFTER TWO RECENT VISITS HERE, CONGRESSMAN'S APPRAISAL OF AND ADMIRATION FOR TAIWAN "MIRACLE" HAS TAKEN DECIDED UPTURN.

3. MATSUNAGA SCHEDULE WAS AS FOLLOWS: LUNCHEON WITH NEW VICE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FRED CHIEN, AND MINISTER W/O PORTFOLIO, S.K. CHOW; VACRS BRIEFING AND VISIT TO TSE LAKE (PRESIDEN CHIANG'S MAUSOLEUM)
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ACCOMPANIED BY VACRS CHAIRMAN T. Y. CHAO (FIRST J.S.

CONGRESSMAN TO PAY RESPECTS AT BURIAL SITE); DINNER HOSTED BY VACRS; BREAKFAST WITH HAWAIIAN CLUB; VISIT TO VACRS HOME FOR AGED; CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN; (DCM ACCOMPANYING); SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM; DINNER HOSTED BY SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY; BREAKFAST WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS; CALL ON AND BRIEFING, COMUSTDC; CALL ON AMBASSADOR FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON; CALL ON PRESIDENT YEN AND CALL ON PREMIER CHIANG(AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANYING ON BOTH) AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CLUB BANQUET; AND, BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT YEN.

4. REFTEL REPORTS SUBSTANCE OF PRESS TREATMENT. POUCHED MEMCONS COVER CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER, PREMIER AND PRESIDENT. BRIEF RECAP SHOWS MATSUNAGA REASSURING TO CHINESE ON ONGOING US COMMITMENT TO ROC AND ON US ROLE IN EAST ASIA; DOUBTFUL THAT PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD RESULT, IN NEAR FUTURE, IN US RECOGNITION OF PRC BUT PREDICTING "LARGE STEP" IN THAT DIRECTION IN FORM OF ADDITIONAL TRADE WITH PEKING. TO PRESIDENT, PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, MATSUNAGA CITED RECENT GALLUP POLL SHOWING OVER 50 PERCENT US PUBLIC WOULD NOT SUPPORT RECOGNITION OF PEKING IF CONDITION WAS "DERECOGNITION" OR ABANDONMENT OF ROC, A VIEW WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE ON CONGRESS WHICH IS SENSITIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION. CONGRESSMAN ALSO SAID EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD STRENGTHENED BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR KOREA AND, BY EXTENSION, FOR ROC AS WELL.

5. PRESIDENT, RESPONDING TO CODEL'S QUESTION RE POTENTIAL INTERNAL IMPACT ON ROC OF US RECOGNITION OF PRC, SAID PRC WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH MERE US DERECOGNITION OF ROC, BUT WOULD PRESS FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO EVENTUAL PRC DOMINATION OF TAIWAN. IN THAT EVENT, PRESIDENT YEN DEPLORED LOSS TO WORLD AND, PARTICULARLY TO "ALL OF CHINA", OF EXAMPLE OF FREE CHINA.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED TO CONGRESSMAN'S QUERY RE LOCAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S VISIT, STATING ROC ACCEPTED "US SINCERITY" IN MAINTAINING COMMITMENTS AND, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN VIEW RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IN ASIA, "MANY THINGS COULD HAPPEN TO CHANGE PRESIDENT'S MIND ABOUT VISIT." FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE AT LENGTH ON VALUE OF ROC AS ALLY TO US IN INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE EAST ASIA, INCLUDING SECURE AND CHEAP BASE AND RECEPTIVE POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR US, IN CONTRAST THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES.

7. MATSUNAGA IS GENERALLY HIGHLY REGARDED HERE FOR HIS
INTELLECT AND FORTHRIGHTNESS AND VISIT WAS CONSIDERED
MUTUALLY BENFICIAL.
UNGER

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